

ENCOURAGING ALL ELIGIBLE MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES TO REVIEW AVAILABLE OPTIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ENROLLMENT IN A MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN BEST MEETS THEIR NEEDS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the Gentlewoman from Connecticut for bringing this resolution forward today. In my district, almost 70,000 Medicare beneficiaries have obtained prescription drug coverage, which constitutes 72 percent of the number of Medicare beneficiaries who live there.

My staff and I are proud to have contributed to this achievement. We have held numerous town hall meetings across Southern New Mexico to help seniors sign up for this critical new benefit. We have also trained others to provide this assistance—creating a multiplier effect regarding the amount of help that is available to our seniors. And we continue to urge seniors to contact our offices if they need help as the May 15 deadline approaches.

Every senior should immediately check their enrollment status in order to ensure they are enrolled in the Medicare Part D benefit. I also encourage everyone who has a parent or grandparent who is eligible for Medicare to call them and check their status. Seniors must sign up before May 15 to receive the best benefits at the lowest cost.

The phone numbers and addresses for my district offices are listed on my website at www.pearce.house.gov. Several additional resources also exist that can assist New Mexicans in choosing and enrolling in a plan. Medicare beneficiaries and their family members with questions about Medicare drug coverage can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or visit www.medicare.gov. They can also obtain help from local community organizations, pharmacists, senior centers, area agencies on aging and groups like AARP.

No senior should go another day without this coverage and we in Congress have a responsibility to stand with them and help them get that coverage today.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY B. ROE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey B. Roe. After 12 years by my side, Jeff recently retired as my Chief of Staff. Since meeting him in 1994, while I was serving in the Missouri State House of Representatives, Jeff and I have maintained a unique bond; he has been there throughout my entire political career, offering guidance and expertise.

Jeff and I began working together in 1994, when he was an intern and I was a State Representative pursuing a position in the State Senate. We won that election, and Jeff soon

became an instrumental member of my staff. Over the next six years, he came in early and stayed late, the consummate professional. When I made the decision to seek the 6th Congressional District seat in the 2000, Jeff was again by my side. Those late nights and tireless hours on the road paid off, and Jeff followed me to Washington, DC, and created an office structure that we still use today. Jeff has held every job in each of my offices and has used that experience to help develop outstanding employees that leave our office more polished and determined than when they enter. Jeff has always had a love of government and politics. He has a unique perspective on the way that the world works. His tireless work ethic has always been something that has set him apart, and he was even recognized as one of Kansas City's 40 most influential leaders under the age of 40, in *Ingram's Magazine* 2003 honors. Throughout his distinguished career in politics, he has helped countless people in their pursuit of public office.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jeffrey B. Roe. His commitment to public service and the professional manner with which he has crafted my office will be missed. I would respectfully like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication over the years. Though he is no longer a member of my staff, I am comforted to know that, because of his hard work, I have the honor of representing him in the United States Congress.

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SPEECH OF

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there are millions of Americans benefiting from the new Part D Drug Program.

Many people overlook that fact, though. I'm pretty tired of hearing the same old story from nay-sayers . . . that people could get their drugs cheaper, "If only the Government had the ability to negotiate lower prices."

I'll tell you what—That's just not true. People love to tout the V.A. system as an example of successful government negotiation.

But did you know that only 13 of the top 33 prescribed drugs for seniors are on the V.A. formulary?

Heck, a negotiated price doesn't help you much if you can't get the drug you need.

For years, P.B.M.'s have been negotiating prices for millions of Americans—and now they are getting the job done for medicare beneficiaries.

Some plans are able to offer prices lower than Internet wholesalers, lower than Canadian prices.

The beneficiaries, the States, and the taxpayers are all benefiting from these lower prices.

I encourage a yes vote on the resolution and thank the gentlelady from Connecticut for her tireless—and persistent—efforts on this issue.

HONORING LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER OSBALDO "OZZIE" RAMOS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Osbaldo "Ozzie" Ramos for being named a 2006 "TOP COP" by the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO).

The TOP COP is given annually by NAPO to pay tribute to outstanding law enforcement officers whose actions have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Officer Ozzie Ramos was nominated by his fellow Los Angeles Police Department Officers for his heroism in the face of grave danger last spring. On March 10, 2005, Officer Ramos and three fellow LAPD officers brought down two dangerous gunmen. That day the two suspects loaded a SUV with 500 rounds of ammunition and a rifle and lured officers into a chase. Several police cars joined the pursuit, including Officer Ozzie Ramos and his partner Officer Trevor Jackson, when suddenly the suspects opened the door of the van and began firing shots at the police cars.

While Officer Ramos drove the patrol car, Officer Jackson returned the suspects' fire using his shotgun. When Officer Jackson ran out of ammunition, Officer Ramos courageously maintained their position in proximity to the SUV while simultaneously pulling out his weapon and firing a full magazine at the suspects.

The Officers' fire caused the SUV to crash in a parking lot, but the suspects continued firing at Officer Ozzie Ramos and his comrades. Officer Ramos exited his vehicle and while firing, crossed an unprotected area to gain a better shot and more accurately relay information on the suspects' position. As a result of Officer Ramos' information, another officer fired through the door of the vehicle and ended the standoff.

Officer Ramos' heroism that day is a reflection of his distinguished career in law enforcement. A 12-year veteran, Officer Ramos graduated from the Police Academy at the young age of 22. Upon graduation Officer Ramos was assigned to the 77th Street Patrol Division as a probationary officer. After completing probation, Officer Ramos served one year in the Central Traffic Division as a Collision Investigator before joining the Gang Enforcement Unit. He was certified as a gang expert and promoted to the ranks of Police Officer III and Assistant Squad Leader in the Gang Unit. After serving a tour in the Gang Unit, Officer Ramos continued his work as the Assistant Squad Leader in the Special Enforcement Unit. Presently Officer Ramos is a Field Training Officer in the 77th Street Patrol Division and he has received thirty-one Commendations for various acts, works, and accomplishments since 1998.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Officer Ozzie

Ramos for being honored with the TOP COP award for 2006. He is an exemplary police officer whose dedicated and fearless service is keeping the people of southern California safe.

RECOGNIZING BRITTNEY LOCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brittney Loch of Maryville, Missouri. Over the past few months, Brittney has served as my office intern. She has handled her responsibilities with class and enthusiasm. Her efforts to represent my office have been commended by both my staff and our constituents.

As a student at Drake University, Brittney has been pursuing a degree in Political Science and came to Washington, DC through the Washington Semester Program to study Public Law. Her ambition and interest in politics have been evident since the first time I met her years ago. Her commitment to public service and her enthusiasm in helping the people of the 6th District is something to be admired.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Brittney Loch. She has been great to have in the office and her efforts are much appreciated. I have no doubt that her dreams of working in Congress will be fulfilled. She will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking her for all of her hard work and dedication. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEVON HELM AND THE DECLARATION OF LEVON HELM DAY IN WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable and talented man, a man who I am proud to call my friend, Mr. Levon Helm.

Levon once said of the music of Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, "it really tattooed my brain." That's how I feel about Levon's music, which I have had the pleasure of enjoying since the late 1960s, when he recorded "Music from Big Pink" in West Saugerties, New York.

Levon Helm was born on May 26, 1940 in Elaine, Arkansas. From an early age, Levon had a musical gift. He performed all over Arkansas with his sister Linda, entertaining crowds with a homemade string bass, harmonica and guitar. As a teenager he formed his own band, The Jungle Bush Beaters, and honed his musical gift by watching entertainers such as Johnny Cash, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, and a young Elvis Presley.

After The Jungle Bush Beaters, Levon joined The Hawks, which recorded such hits as "Forty Days" and "Mary Lou." The Hawks sold 750,000 copies of their record and appeared on Dick Clark's American Bandstand.

After splitting with The Hawks' founder, Ronnie Hawkins, Levon and his band mates signed on as Bob Dylan's backup band, and followed Dylan to West Saugerties, New York, where they took up residence in a pink house, wrote and rehearsed. The group became known simply as The Band, and the outcome of that period was one of the most important albums of the 20th century, "Music from Big Pink." It was the album that introduced Levon Helm to America, and it introduced me to their amazing sound.

Luckily for Levon, he didn't put his roots down in the Hudson Valley just yet. While working in Los Angeles in 1974, he met the lovely Sandra Dodd who would become his wife seven years later. I am happy to know her and call her a friend.

The Band continued to prosper in the early 1970s and in 1975, the barn and studio that Levon built in Woodstock was complete. Unfortunately it was just a year later that we said goodbye to The Band, but it would not be goodbye for Levon Helm.

Over the next seven years, Levon continued pursuing his own musical career with cutting-edge albums like "The RCO All-Stars," the self-titled "Levon Helm" and "American Son." Then in 1984, much to their fans' delight, The Band reunited, performing together and recording three more albums.

In 1996, Levon was diagnosed with throat cancer, and we all feared we would never hear his voice again, but he miraculously recovered, and I, and so many others, still enjoy Levon's music at the Midnight Rambles he holds in his studio in Woodstock.

For the past 30 years, Levon has been much more than our famous neighbor in Woodstock. He has, quietly and unobtrusively, been a very generous and committed member of our community. He has worked hard for and supported cancer centers, local little leagues, volunteer firefighters, members of the armed forces and school music programs.

It is because of this great man, and the great music he produces that the Village of Woodstock, New York, has declared May 20 as Levon Helm Day. It continues to be an honor and a great pleasure for so many of us in New York and across America to bear witness to the incredible career and life of this very strong, extremely talented and generous man. I look forward to many more Midnight Rambles.

IN HONOR OF BLAIR L. SADLER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate Blair L. Sadler, who has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hospital and Health Center of San Diego since 1980. Mr. Sadler celebrates his retirement after more than a quarter of a century of service in the field of pediatric healthcare.

A native of New York City, Blair graduated from Amherst College with a bachelor's degree in economics and received his Juris Doc-

torate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He served as a law clerk with the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and as a medical-legal specialist for the National Institutes of Health. He was an Assistant Professor at Yale University for 3 years and served for 4 years as Assistant Vice President at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey. Prior to his appointment at Children's Hospital, Blair served as Vice President and Director of the hospital and clinics at Scripps Clinical and Research Foundation for 3 years.

Before coming to California, Blair had already established a national and international reputation in several fields, including organ transplantation, physician assistant programs, and emergency medical care and trauma services. While at the National Institutes of Health, with his physician twin brother, he was very involved in writing a model organ donation law that was adopted in all 50 states and published leading articles on transplantation and the law. While on the Yale University Medical School faculty, he co-authored two books *The Physician's Assistant—Today and Tomorrow* and *Emergency Medical Care: The Neglected Public Service*, which were widely utilized. At the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, he designed and led their first national competitive grants program in regional emergency medical communication systems that became a model for the Foundation's work.

His many accomplishments show a deep commitment to improving healthcare. He has skillfully integrated quantitative indicators along with qualitative elements to fashion a truly unique healing experience for the patients at Children's Hospitals.

Under his leadership, Children's has become one of the leading pediatric hospitals in America and was the country's first children's hospital to receive the prestigious Ernest A. Codman Award in recognition for its pioneering work in quality of care. Children's is the major pediatric partner of the entire Sharp and Scripps health care systems and, in 2001, signed a historic agreement combining the UCSD pediatric programs with Children's.

Blair's leadership has enabled Children's to grow and develop as one of the Nation's best pediatric hospitals and, during his tenure, Children's has provided care for more than a million children in the San Diego region since 1980. Children's has added many nationally recognized programs and services and has developed strong collaborative relationships with virtually every healthcare provider in San Diego. While Blair has been at the helm, the hospital has planned and constructed more than 200,000 square feet of facilities and he has championed a healing environment for Children's.

Thanks to Blair's vision, Children's is not just a conglomeration of buildings; it represents a model healing environment for kids and their families. In 1999, Children's built the first healing garden in an American children's hospital and there are now four gardens on its campus. In 2001, in partnership with the non-profit Society for the Arts in Healthcare, he created and personally funded the Blair L. Sadler Healing Arts Award program that annually recognizes professional and student artists who have made measurable contributions to improved health care through the arts.

On behalf of the people of San Diego, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation